

## Robert S. Allen - Paul Scott Report

# New U-2 Flights, A-Tests Urged

WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower is weighing two far-reaching proposals from Defense Secretary Thomas Gates and the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

- To resume atomic tests later this year at the Nevada proving ground.

- Lift the ban against U-2 reconnaissance plane flights over Russia and Red China.

That these momentous recommendations have been made to the President was revealed by Gates to military and civilian defense leaders at their recent conference at the Marine Base at Quantico, Va.

Thus disclosure was the most significant occurrence at this annual meeting.

Secretary Gates gave no hint of it in the one session he held with newsmen, at the close of the three-day conference. However, the following publishable details of what he told the Pentagon and other authorities in the closed-door Quantico deliberations can be made known:

WHILE GATES AND the Joint Chiefs realize that difficult political problems are involved in both proposals, they are being vigorously advocated by them on the ground of "urgent military necessity." Only the President can decide the political implications.

But the defense leaders deem the early resumption of atomic tests vital because of the impending completion of missiles and other weapons using nuclear warheads.

While none of these new arms were named by Gates, his listeners were fully aware that development of the Navy's solid-fuel intermo-

diate range POLARIS is ahead of schedule. This nuclear-tipped missile, designed especially for nuclear-powered submarines, will become operational next year.

For this reason alone, the Joint Chiefs hold, it is "absolutely essential" that new atomic tests be carried out to determine the effectiveness of the warheads for the POLARIS. That can be done only by testing them. Laboratory experiments and other substitutes are wholly inadequate.

POLARIS warheads are not the only new nuclear weapons awaiting field tests. There are a number of other important ones, particularly small caliber for ground forces and anti-aircraft rockets of various types.

OVERFLIGHTS by U-2 planes have provided invaluable military information that can be obtained in no other way. General C. P. Cabell, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told the Quantico conference in stressing the need for continuing such reconnaissance missions over Russia and Red China.

"The tremendous results of these 'overflights' speak for themselves," said Cabell. "In a little more than three years, we secured information about Soviet anti-aircraft defenses, atomic installations, missile and rocket bases and production centers, weapons depots and other storage and communications centers that had never been available to us through any other source or method."

"It will be about two years before we can get any significant information from reconnaissance satellites," said Cabell in reply to a question.

As a result of the U-2 "overflights," an estimated 60 percent of Russia's anti-aircraft defenses and missile installations were located. It is known the Soviet is now extensively expanding these bases.



Mr. Scott